



*Angeles Chapter*

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Culver City, CA 90230-4956

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Honorable Mayor Detoy, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jackson and Council Members  
City of Hermosa Beach  
1315 Valley Drive  
Hermosa Beach, California 90254

**Re: Agenda Item #XIVc for Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – Discussion  
of Next Steps Towards Achieving the City’s Greenhouse Gas  
Emissions Goals and Consideration of Community Choice  
Aggregation Options**

Dear Mayor Michael Detoy, Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Jackson and  
Councilmembers Stacey Armato, Mary Campbell, and Justin Massey:

The Sierra Club writes in strong support for Hermosa Beach pursuing  
Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), and specifically for developing a  
feasibility study of joining the Clean Power Alliance at the 100% renewable  
energy default rate.

The City of Hermosa Beach has long been a leader in addressing greenhouse gas  
(GHG) emissions and has committed itself to the GHG emissions reductions  
spelled out in the Kyoto Protocol. In pursuit of these goals, the City of Hermosa  
Beach was one of the first cities in the South Bay to seriously consider the CCA  
model.

Since then, Clean Power Alliance (CPA) has become the largest CCA in  
California and is the largest provider of 100% renewable energy in the USA. As  
the staff report states, “Joining Clean Power Alliance would be the most efficient  
and impactful strategy for further reducing the City’s overall GHG emissions.”

California’s 2020 wildfire season was the worst in recorded history, involving  
4% of California land and more than 30 fatalities, according to the California  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.<sup>i</sup> We can expect more of this, more  
extreme weather events, droughts and fires due to an unnaturally rapid rate of  
global warming. The United Nations IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report warns that  
we need to transition off of fossil fuels as soon as possible or face a global and  
catastrophic climate crisis by 2040.<sup>ii</sup>

At a time when the world needs leadership, you are in a unique position to send a  
message of hope and commitment by joining CPA and setting a **100%  
renewable energy default** for the City of Hermosa Beach. This is what the  
majority of your constituents want. The Public Policy Institute of California  
recently surveyed Californians and reported, “Majorities support action on  
climate change **even if it brings increased costs.**”<sup>iii</sup>

People are willing to pay more to avert a climate crisis. The good news is that in this case those costs are minimal. Southern California Edison (SCE) recently indicated that on March 1, 2022, the Power Change Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) (exit fee) charged by SCE to CPA customers will be reduced, resulting in bill reductions for CPA customers of approximately six percent. If that forecast becomes reality, all three CPA rate products will be less expensive than SCE, at least for 2022.

You can take the step of setting a 100% tier default **without foisting higher costs on anyone who doesn't want that tier or can't afford it.** Everyone will be offered multiple opportunities to choose a 50% or 40% renewable energy plan at the outset and can opt down any time. The wishes of any residential or small business customer who already opted down to lean power would be honored, meaning that they would not be opted up to 100% green power with the rest of the city. In addition, you have time to do extensive education about this option to make sure everyone is informed.

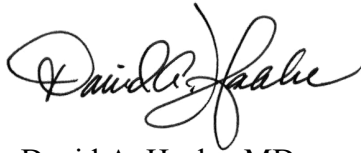
What's more, for those communities with a 100% default, CARE and other low-income customers will have the plan benefit at no additional cost. Clean Power Alliance created a \$2 million COVID-19 Relief Program that provides bill credits to help impacted customers manage their electricity payments. From a social and environmental justice perspective, this is ideal. The most financially vulnerable customers will be protected but still enjoy the benefits of using clean, renewable energy. And those communities most afflicted by pollution associated with fossil fuel power production will breathe easier because of the choice you made to direct more investment in renewable energy instead. It will also be a driver of jobs. Renewable energy is creating jobs 12 times faster than the rest of the economy<sup>iv</sup> and employs more people in the U.S. than fossil fuels.<sup>v</sup>

A 100% default would be good for Hermosa Beach's image as a great place to live, work, and visit. It would inspire other cities and counties. Almost 200 cities across the country have joined Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" campaign by committing to 100% renewable energy. Within the Clean Power Alliance, to date Ventura County and the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Culver City, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Ojai, Oxnard, Rolling Hills Estates, Santa Monica, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Thousand Oaks, Ventura County, Ventura City, and West Hollywood have all decided to go with 100% renewable energy defaults. Recently, Beverly Hills, Redondo Beach and Los Angeles County decided to go up to 100% renewable energy as the default rate, so Hermosa Beach will be in very good company.

As Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group says about their report that was written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies, "The decisions we make today are critical in ensuring a safe and sustainable world for everyone, both now and in the future." This report gives policymakers and practitioners the information they need to make decisions that tackle climate change while considering local context and people's needs.

**The next few years are probably the most important in our history.”** We urge you to act on behalf of City of Hermosa Beach, to consider the local context, the decision you are empowered to make, and choose to be on the right side of history with a 100% renewable energy default.

With best regards,



David A. Haake, MD  
Chair, Clean Break Team, Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Chair, Clean Power Alliance Community Advisory Committee

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<sup>i</sup> CalFire website (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/>)

<sup>ii</sup> “Sixth Assessment Report”, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, August, 2021  
(<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>)

<sup>iii</sup> Californians’ Views on Climate Change, Public Policy Institute of California, September 2018  
(<http://www.ppic.org/publication/californians-views-on-climate-change/>)

<sup>iv</sup> “Renewable Energy Is Creating Jobs 12 Times Faster Than the Rest of the Economy,” Fortune, 2017 (<http://fortune.com/2017/01/27/solar-wind-renewable-jobs/>)

<sup>v</sup> “U.S. Clean Energy Jobs Surpass Fossil Fuel Employment,” NRDC summary of a Department of Energy Report, February 2017 (<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lara-ettenson/us-clean-energy-jobs-surpass-fossil-fuel-employment>)